Direct train between Howrah and Varanasi

514. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal have written to the Central Government for a direct train service between Howrah and Varanasi; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of 17 pairs of trains available between Howrah and Varanasi/Mughalsarai, the proposal has not been found feasible.

Railway Coach Building factory in North Bengal

515. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Railway Coach Building factory is proposed to be set up in North Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The indigenous coach building capacity in the country at present is 1553 coaches. It is proposed to increase the capacity at Integral Coach Factory Madras from 900 coaches in 1987-88 to 1000 in 1988-89 onwards. Rail Coach Factory Kapurthala has an ultimate capacity of 1000 coaches. With these capacities available and planned, no further increase in coach building capacity is contemplated.

Discontinuance of Indira Vikas Patra

516. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the collection of amount through Indira Gandhi Patra has been discontinued;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the amount collected uptil now through Indira Vikas Patra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir. The collection of amount through Indira Vikas Patras has not been discontinued.

(b) The question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) As per the information available so far, the amount collected through the sale of Indira Vikas Patra upto 31-3-1987 is Rs. 828,81,42 (in thousands).

Cranes for Kandla Port Trust

517. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kandla Port Trust has not yet received the delivery of cranes for which orders were placed with M/s. WMI Cranes Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the date of placing orders with delivery date stipulated in the contract;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the company had delayed the delivery to other port trust authorities; and

(d) if so, the nature of delay and action being contemplated to cancel such orders and/or to delist the company from port trusts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An order for 5 cranes (4 Nos. of 3 tonne and 1 of 6 tonne capacity) was placed on M/s. WMI Cranes Ltd., Bombay on 30th March, 1982. The delivery date was 30th September, 1983. Subsequently the order was reduced to 3 cranes (2 Nos. of 3 tonne and 1 No. of 6 tonnes capacity).

(c) and (d) Paradip Port Trust placed an order for the supply, erection and commissioning of one Stacker-cum-Reclaimer on M/s WMI Cranes Ltd., Bombay on 1-12-81 with the scheduled date of completion as 21st March, 1983. All sub-assemblies have been erected except the installation of Hydraulic luffing cylinders. The lubrication piping work and electrical work is in the final stage of completion.

The Kandla Port Trust Authorities have levied full compensation amounting to Rs. 5.84 lakhs as per contract agreement for delaying the completion of the work. Paradip Port has issued a show cause notice against the firm. The poor performance of the Firm in the work awarded to them by Paradip Port has been brought to the attention of all Major Ports by Government.

Allotment of Railway Out Agencies

518. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria of allotting Railway Out Agencies to private parties; and

(b) whether the agency is for a period of one year only and fresh tenders are invited every year or is it renewable according to the individual contracts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The main criteria for allotment of out agencies are financial viability and transportation experience of the contractor and the cartage rates quoted for transportation of goods/parcels between the out agency and the serving rail-head. Suitability of location of out agency premises and storage capacity are also given due weightage.

(b) Contracts for out agencies are normally awarded for periods varying between 3 to 5 years.

DTC concession to handicapped persons

519. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Transport Corporation has laid down a condition that in order to avail of the concessions offered by it to the physically handicapped persons, the applicant must have been a resident of Delhi for at least three years; and

(b) if so, whether there is any exemption postulated for those handicapped persons who may have come to Delhi for some *bona fide* employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) The D.T.C. issues passes to the physically handicapped persons on the basis of the Identity Cards issued by Delhi Administration. Delhi Administration have laid down the condition of 3 years domicile in Union Territory of Delhi for issue of Identity Cards. No exemption in this respect is postulated by the D.T.C.

Prevalance of fatal diseases among children in the country

520. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND